



# MEMORANDUM

Date: July 2, 2015

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Helena Stephens, Family, Youth & Teen Services Manager

Subject: Youth Link Board Presentation  
*(No Board action requested)*

Youth Link, a youth leadership program, gives youth an active voice in the community. The program is a partnership between the City of Bellevue and the Bellevue School District. Youth receive training and opportunities for “hands-on project” experience. Middle and high school students work with Bellevue leaders to provide a youth perspective on various community issues and participate in community service projects. As part of Youth Link’s reporting responsibilities, the Youth Link Board presents youth issues to the Bellevue City Council, Bellevue School Board, the Parks & Community Services Board and the Human Services Commission. Empowered as community leaders, youth work with adults to identify and implement youth priorities for Bellevue. Youth Link teaches engagement skills and civic responsibilities while working with elected/public officials and community leaders. In 2014, Youth Link directly served 450 youth and teens and impacted over 3,000 Bellevue children and youth. The City Manager-appointed Youth Link Board consists of six adults, six youth and liaisons from Bellevue City Council and Bellevue School Board.

The presentation will discuss the recent 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Youth Link, major accomplishments of the past twenty-five years, and top priorities for Bellevue youth in the categories of education, employment, health, recreation, safety and transportation. These six topics are the foundational topics and focus of Youth Link’s “Youth Involvement Conference,” which 250 - 300 middle and high school students attend. In addition, the presentation will include two new Youth Link pilot projects – Youth Link University and Youth Link Robotics Club at Crossroads, which were launched in spring 2015.

Youth Link continues to impact a significant portion of Bellevue’s youth population through the Bellevue Youth Council, Youth Link Board, Youth Action Teams, education, training and community service related activities. Also, Youth Link is the “Youth Voice” of the City and continues to update the City Council, Bellevue School Board and other bodies such as the Parks & Community Services Board on the pressing issues and concerns of youth and teens in Bellevue.

